

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

by fax in advance: 10
00. 44. 20. 7377 1377From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To: Mr. Tony Smea

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PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) 28.09.2004Applicant's or agent's file reference
MJB07059WO

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.
PCT/GB 03/01254International filing date (day/month/year)
24.03.2003Priority date (day/month/year)
08.04.2002Applicant
COOPER CAMERON CORPORATION et al.

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

The applicant's attention is drawn to Article 33(5), which provides that the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability described in Article 33(2) to (4) merely serve the purposes of international preliminary examination and that "any Contracting State may apply additional or different criteria for the purposes of deciding whether, in that State, the claimed inventions is patentable or not" (see also Article 27(5)). Such additional criteria may relate, for example, to exemptions from patentability, requirements for enabling disclosure, clarity and support for the claims.

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preliminary examining authority:European Patent Office
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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference MJB07059WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/01254	International filing date (day/month/year) 24.03.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 08.04.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC E21B43/36		
Applicant COOPER CAMERON CORPORATION et al.		



1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

I	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Basis of the opinion
II	<input type="checkbox"/>	Priority
III	<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
IV	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lack of unity of invention
V	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
VI	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain documents cited
VII	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain defects in the international application
VIII	<input type="checkbox"/>	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 08.08.2003	Date of completion of this report 28.09.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Diaz y Diaz-Caneja, Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7534 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/01254

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-18 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-23 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/12-12/12 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/GB 03/01254**

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	3, 6-23
	No: Claims	1, 2, 4-5
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	3
	No: Claims	1-2, 4-23
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-23
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

- 1) D1 (US-A-5 117 908), discloses a subsea process assembly for (see PCT-Guidelines III, 4.8) separating a multiphase flow, the assembly comprising:
 - an inlet 1 for a multiphase medium;
 - a pressure reducing means 8 for (see PCT-Guidelines III, 4.8) reducing the pressure of the multiphase flow from the inlet and creating a source of energy (see column 2, lines 40-43);
 - a multiphase separator 11 for (see PCT-Guidelines III, 4.8) separating the multiphase input into individual phases (see column 2, lines 49-53); and
 - a pumping system for (see PCT-Guidelines III, 4.8), in use, pumping at least one of the desired individual phases to a delivery point by utilising of the energy from the source of energy (see column 2, lines 55-56).

The subject-matter of claim 1 is known.

Thus, the subject-matter of claim 1 does not meet the novelty requirement of Art. 33(2) PCT.

- 2) D1, also discloses the additional features of the following claims:
 - 2, 5 (see item 18)
 - 4 (see figs. 4 and 5)

Thus, the subject-matter of claims 2 and 4-5 does not meet the novelty requirement of Art. 33(2) PCT.

- 3) The additional features of dependant claim 3 are not disclosed in any of the documents cited in the search report. Furthermore, it is not known a control process module for controlling the pressure reducing means and the pumping system, which becomes very advantageous when used in a complex system involving numerous pipelines and also because one process assembly could operate independently from the other process assemblies.
- 4) Claim 20, even though is formulated as independant, specifies all the features of

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International application No. PCT/GB03/01254

claim 1 and therefore, "de facto", is also dependant from claim 1.

- 5) The additional features of claims 6-23 are either known from the documents mentioned in the search report or comes within the scope of the knowledge of a skilled person.

Thus, these claims do not appear to contain any additional features which in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, could form subject-matter which is new and involves an inventive step (Art. 33(2)-(3) PCT).